taking or at least ought to take a very keen inrerest in that Bill.

Mr. President: If the Bill is not taken up on Thursday it will have to go to the Budget session which means there will be great delay in placing it on the statute book.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Sir, in the ordinary course it can come only in next Vrischigam. There is no hurry since we are only going to modify the existing Law and practice.

Mr. President: I may inform the House that three amending Acts have been passed in British India recently which have been incorporated in this Bill. We have not brought the same into force in Cochin. Hence these amendments will not apply to Cochin for the next few months. Anyhow I have no objection to the Bill being taken up for consideration during the Budget session.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 20—*(cont.)*

Prohibition of rice hulling for the duration of the War

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Before we proceed to the Resolution I wish to be supplied Sir, with some information which I wanted yesterday bearing upon this resolution,

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies):* The Hon'ble Member had asked for information as regards the rates of transport of paddy to the mills. They are as follows.—For taking it to the mills in the same taluk—5 annas per bag of 10 paras. Paddy purchased in the Taluks of Mukundapuram and Trichur and Talappalli.—

Paddy purchased in the Chittur Taluk—Re. 1—8—0 per cart load of 70 paras for transport from one taluk to another.

For paddy purchased in Mukundapuram and transported to Trichur—5 annas per bag of 10 paras.

For paddy purchased in Talappalli and Trichur—11 annas per bag of 10 paras.

The milling charges are

7 annas in Trichur, Talappalli and Mukundapuram Taluks for paddy of a bag of 10 paras and Rs. 3—8—0 for one cart load of paddy in the Chittur Taluk.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Mr. President, I propose to utilise the occasion presented by this resolution, though unhappily worded, to press upon the attention of Government one or two important things. It has to be admitted, Sir, that we are passing through strenuous times regarding food supply. It has to be admitted that our Government is trying its level best to meet the food situation to the best of its ability. Our Diwan is untiring in his efforts to get down as much of British Indian rice as possible and he has also been pleased to commandeer all paddy produced in the State though late. The Government therefore is in possession of rice to some extent and also of paddy to some extent. So the proposition of giving rice alone to those who want rice, as my hon'ble friend the member for Chalakkudi wanted or giving paddy alone to those who want paddy, as many other Hon'ble Members in this House want, is not a very difficult proposition at all for the Government. In connection with the desirability and the possibility of giving paddy, when that is wanted, I raised a question at question time last session and the Diwan President was pleased to inform the house that there is absolutely no objection for giving a portion of the paddy as paddy to the public, but he said a portion will have to be milled. Another supplementary question that I put was whether paddy proportionate to the rationed rice, *viz.*, four nalies of paddy to 2 nalies of rice could not be given. To that the Diwan President was again pleased to say that it will not be always possible because of the necessity for milling paddy on considerations of transport charges. That is in answer to question 96 of the last session. What I now wish to urge upon the Government is to give paddy as such to these persons who want paddy in preference to rice. That process has got various advantages. Now we are purchasing paddy from the agriculturists at Re. 1—4—0 per para of paddy. It is now stated by the Government that for removing that paddy within the taluk these millowners are paid a certain amount, namely 5 annas for a bag of 10 paras in certain taluks and in the case of a particular taluk Rs. 3—8—0 per cart load of 70 paras. That works out to something more than the other Taluks. Then again for hulling this paddy which is transported, after payment of these transport charges another amount is paid to the millowner, 7 annas per bag in two or three places and in the Chittur Taluk Rs. 3—8—0 per cartload of 70 paras. That is the position up to conversion into rice. Again there is a further transport charge to be incurred to take back these milled rice from the mills to the various fair price shops

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and other merchants with the result that we are selling rice to the ration holder at the rate of 4 annas 9 pies per Edangali. Lots of complaints have been raised in this House with regard to the quality of rice milled and the mischief that some of these millowners are doing in the process of hulling and supplying rice. In place of rice, if paddy is given, the poor consumer gets it at a cheaper rate than the present rate that he has to pay. For 10 Edangalies of paddy, we pay Re. 1—4—0. That is 2 annas per Edangali. To get one Edangali of rice if paddy is given we have to pay four annas only. By purchasing paddy and husking it the consumer gets all the bye-products—its husk, bran, etc. The consumer thus stands to gain much from the standpoint of price. He further stands to gain from the standpoint of health also. It will be easily admitted that hand pounded rice is superior in quality in all respects vitamin contents, taste etc., to milled rice. That is another advantage, that he has. These are from the standpoint of the poor consumer. As for the rich consumer, he has to engage labour for converting this paddy. That gives labour to persons who are in want of labour. He will have to get it converted into rice. For that he will have to engage people who will be paid in kind preferably. That is what is obtaining everywhere. There is yet another class of poor persons who make a living out of the hand pounding of rice. These persons are now completely bereft of all employment. They do not know any other work. Their only work was to purchase paddy scraping together some small amount of money by borrowing or otherwise convert it into rice and take it to the shops or house holders and sell. With this they make a living. That is something done in the country parts to a great extent. They are now bereft of all labour. They cannot take to other work because they know none. Therefore if you give paddy to the poor consumer he stands to gain. If you give paddy to the rich consumers it will give work to others who are poor. Another thing that the Commissioner of Civil Supplies may please take note of is that there are certain persons prepared to undertake to supply hand pounded rice if a good quantity of paddy is given to them or their giving security for supplying rice in instalments. Instead of sending the whole paddy to the mills, for being hulled as much as these persons require may be given to them so that they may employ large number of persons for pounding and we get better staff. My information is that this point is being considered by the Civil Supplies Commissioner. Where paddy is wanted, it may kindly be given. No fair price shop Sir, has now got a stock of paddy with it. That is what I find round about Vadakkancheri with the result that the demand for paddy could certainly not be met. My suggestion therefore to the Government is that in every fair price shop as also in other shops recognised by the Government a fair stock of paddy may be left to be given as paddy. A direction may be given to the authorities concerned that in place of rice, if the persons concerned want paddy, it may be so be done. It may be an arrangement even at the initial stages. That is those who want paddy may be given ration cards for paddy. That is one suggestion that I place before the Government for immediate serious consideration. The resolution contains a request that all rice mills should, for the period of war be closed. I do not think, Sir, that the Government should go in for the advance of closing all the mills at once or for any period of time. If paddy is given to the public as much as they want that result will follow. That cannot however be helped. We are not here to help the industrialists and capitalists of our State. Another point is that giving of paddy to the public when wanted will be an encouragement to cottage industry. It will be in the interests of the public at large and the Government will not be attacked as interested in fattening the already fat industrialists and capitalists of the State. For these reasons I request that the Government may be pleased not exactly to accept the wording of the resolution but what is sought to be done through it namely to give paddy to the public.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam)* : Yesterday it was pointed out by a few predecessors of mine in this debate that if Government completely prohibits the milling, of paddy the town dwellers wi l be put to great difficulties, because hand pounding is a forgotten art in the urban areas. In this connection I wish to point out to the Government that a very simple device has been evolved at Wardha by using which paddy can be very easily converted into rice. The device resembles an ordinary pair of round stones but is made of wood. These are two wooden discs and on the faces of the discs which contact each other there are groves running from the centre to the circumference. If this very sample machine is used pounding will become very easy. Government would do well to get down such a device from Wardha and popularise it. Our Director of Industries and Commerce may be asked to let these machines prepared in the carpentry section of our Trades Schools and the Civil Supplies Department may do active propaganda so that all the people may take to it. I request the Government to very seriously consider this question and do the needful in the matter.

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Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)* : The object of the resolution as explained by the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam is to encourage handpounding. The Government desire and are prepared to do whatever possible to encourage handpounding. It helps the preservation of the food value of rice and also provides work for a large number of poor people in the country. The Government have embarked on a big scheme of purchasing the entire surplus paddy in the State. There is however difficulty for the Government to entrust paddy in small quantities to a number of persons for hand pounding. There is the further fact that ordinarily the milling charges for handpounding are comparatively higher. The solvency of the people to whom paddy has to be entrusted has also to be considered. It has also to be got back within a reasonably short time. Scrutiny of the quality of the out-turn also becomes more difficult when it is entrusted to larger number of individuals which must necessarily be the case in the case of handpounding. These are some of the difficulties which stand in the way of paddy being got milled by handpounding. Wherever realiable individuals or institutions such as co-operative societies are forthcoming to undertake to supply rice by handpounding on a sufficiently large scale on reasonable terms the Government would be prepared to entrust the work to them.

At present I have only a few such offers from the various parts of the State and they are being considered. In order to meet the public demand it is necessary to convert a portion of the paddy into rice and stock it in various places. Till the Government are assured of reliable agencies to get this work done by handpounding the Government do not think it safe or advisable to compulsorily stop hulling in the mills as their services may be necessary in this connection.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)* : Whether the Government have any objection to allow persons to give rice instead of paddy. Suppose I am to give 500 paras of paddy. If I am prepared to give hand pounded rice, is there any objection to accept that?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)* : I must consider that.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)* : Then there will be several people to give rice instead of paddy.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)* : I must consider. Another point is that there are many mills working in the State. A large amount of private capital and labour is involved in the working of these mills. It may not be proper also for the Government to interfere with these private concerns and force them to close down in the absence of any compelling necessity. Government do not desire to embark upon such a venture as the Hon'ble Mover of the Resolution wants.

In the course of the discussion of the resolution several Hon'ble Members suggested that paddy might be given from the Government depots and retailers' shops in place of rice. Government have no objection to act upon this suggestion and to give paddy wherever possible. In fact that has been done also in some of the places. Paddy purchased in Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk has been reserved for distribution as such. I may however observe for the information of the Hon'ble Members that it may not always be possible to issue the entire paddy purchased by Government as paddy alone. A portion of the public especially in the bigger towns in the State may prefer rice to be issued from the shops consequent on the difficulty of getting paddy converted into rice. So rice also will have to be issued occasionally. There is also the fact that paddy requires considerably larger space for storage and also for transport. This makes it difficult to store both the commodities in our shops so as to issue one or the other at the option of the consumer if we insist that all the retailers should store the paddy and rice required for the card-owners in the entire area it may not be possible. We will try. This can be issued like this, say paddy for one week and rice for another week, alternatively. That appears to be a more feasible method now. The suggestion will, however be borne in mind, and if it is possible Government will look into it. I cannot promise it, because there are difficulties in the way.

Another difficulty is that the paddy we get, we notice, is liable to great shrinkage. In fact, in regard to different varieties we find different degrees of shrinkage. Even in respect of the same varieties the shrinkage is not uniform. It depends upon the condition in which we get it. When it is preserved for some time some shrinkage is noticed. That makes it difficult for us to check the accuracy of the figures given to us by the officers working in the Fair Price Shops. When there is no uniformity in the degree of shrinkage, it is very difficult to check the accuracy of the figures. Some of the retailers also complain that there is great shrinkage. If the shrinkage is great, there may be a tendancy for them to make it up by short measuring. So, these are the difficulties. I will try my best to carry out the suggestions made in the House, and we will issue paddy wherever it is possible. But in the other procedure I suggested there is no

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difficulty, *viz.*, to issue paddy at one time and then issue rice at another time. To stock both rice and paddy everywhere so as to give the option to the consumer to buy rice or paddy may not be possible. So far as it is possible it will be carried out.

Then another point dealt with by the Hon'ble members is as regards the quality of rice. One complaint is made that it contains husk or paddy. Well, it has come to my notice in the early stages. I enquired into it and gave instructions to improve the quality. I have since noted that the rice supplied from the Trichur mills is comparatively much better and contains less of husk or paddy. But the one difficulty that they point out is that when there is under-milling some husk or paddy is inevitable. But still that point is being looked into and we are trying to see whether some device cannot be found out by which this can be entirely got over.

Then the Hon'ble Member for Ezhuvas, Mukundapuram made a disclosure yesterday that he had information that some people were over-steaming the paddy. He gave the information to me only two days back and I have immediately taken action on it. Private enquiries are being made and we will try to see that such a thing is not done.

The Hon'ble Member for Nellayi observed that in some places rice is not well dried, because it is taken delivery of immediately after it is milled. I myself in the course of my inspection of the shops came across such an instance. Immediately, we have taken steps to remedy the defect, and special orders have been given that rice should not be taken delivery of immediately after it is milled but only after the lapse of a certain time.

There is only one more point I wish to deal with. With regard to the defects pointed out in the milling, similar defects are possible in the case of hand-pounding also. They are not confined, so far as my information goes to the mills alone. Whatever it is, I have not inquired into it. For some of the defects in the quality of the rice now supplied by the mills, we cannot blame them. The only possibility to prevent fraud is to exercise a rigid and close scrutiny of the out-turn. We are doing all that is humanly possible in this direction by paying surprise visits to the mills and making confidential enquiries.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* What is the use of inspecting the Mills? When you get the rice you can see whether you should accept it or not.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies):* Inspection is for finding whether there is fraud or not. Owing to the under-milling it is not easy to see from a mere glance of the rice whether there is any over-steaming.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is there any difficulty in opening paddy shops to give paddy for those who want it?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies):* I have not considered that. To sum up, these are the difficulties of the Government and the suggestion made in this House will be seriously borne in mind and acted up to. But the resolution in the form in which it is brought is not acceptable. I request the Hon'ble member to withdraw the resolution.

Mr. President : I was not present yesterday during the earlier part of the debate on this resolution and I have no idea of the detailed discussion; but I have read a summary of it alone. I really thought this morning when Mr. Ezhuthassan was speaking and also from some of the speeches made yesterday, that they have only expressed the view that I have all along held that hand-pounding should be encouraged to the utmost extent possible, and I can assure the Hon'ble members that Government are in whole-hearted agreement with them in that view. I may also say that the Government are encouraging hand pounding as far as possible. As has been pointed out by the Civil Supplies Commissioner, there are a few difficulties in the way of giving up milling. We have to remember that the Department is working at very high pressure. It has started a rationing scheme and an enormous purchasing scheme. What they are most concerned with is to get by the easiest possible method a sufficient supply of food for the consumption of the people scattered all over the State. They have been saddled with an enormous purchasing scheme and the functions of whole-salers. We very much welcome all the suggestions made by the Hon'ble members to encourage to the utmost extent possible the hand-pounding of rice. We did not want to take the extreme step of closing down all the rice mills at the start because we felt that we must make use of them in the early stages. If we find it necessary later on to close down the mills we may do so. I can assure the Hon'ble members that so far as the resolution is intended to bring to the notice of the Government the necessity for encouraging the hand pounding of rice, we certainly accept it But we are unable to accept the necessity to take the drastic step of stopping all the mills at this stage, because it would place us, in the present moment, in an awkward position. In view of the representations made by the Civil Supplies Commissioner and myself, I hope the Hon'ble member will withdraw the resolution.

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Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Before withdrawing the resolution I just want to bring to the notice of the Government a statement by Raja-sevanipuna Dr. C. O. Karunakaran. He has given scientific reasons and has held that hand-pounded rice is superior to the milled rice. He opposes the continuing of rice-mills and pounding paddy in mills. I do not want to go through this passage any further. I place for the consideration of the Government that even on the helth point of view this has to be stopped. I do not press the motion to a division in the light of the kind assurances of the Hon'ble President and also that of the Hon'ble Civil Supplies Commissioner. I beg leave of the House to withdraw the resolution.

Resolution, by leave, withdrawn.

Resolution No. 21

Demand for Full Responsible Government at the end of the war

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: I move that "*This Council recommends to the Government that His Highness the Maharaja may be requested to declare that full responsible Government will be granted at the end of the War.*" Such resolutions have been brought before this House several times before, we are enjoying a partial responsible government even now in our small State. This House has once demanded immediate responsible government. I am not objecting for the transfer of some more departments to the Minister as demanded by this House last time. This House has once demanded even a Council of Ministers. But my resolution is not against any of these resolutions. I just want to fix a time for the grant of full responsible government. I think it is improper at this time to demand full responsible government during this war time. Full responsible government should not any how be postponed one day more after the war. This war is a fight between autocracy and democracy. The success of the democracy is a fact,—I mean a foregone conclusion. We are not going to believe that democrats like Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin and Chiang-Kie-Shaik are going to have end the peace conference without deciding Full Responsible Government to every native State in India under the aegis of each of the Rulers. If India is going to be independent, the native states cannot continue a day without giving fully responsible government. So we request that His Highness the Maharaja's Government be pleased to declare at least as the goal of full responsible government will be fixed finally to be the end of the war. Meanwhile all the resolutions which have been previously passed in this connection for giving more and more departments to the Minister may also be brought into effect by the Government one by one in different stages. I commend this motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Mr. President, I have very great pleasure in seconding this all important resolution. This Honourable House is now 18 years old. It has become a major already. From the very day of its inauguration Sir, grant of responsible government, grant of full responsible government has been engaging the attention of this Hon'ble House in various shapes and forms. There were days Sir, when there was no response from the government to this persistent request from the representatives of the people. This naturally lead this Hon'ble House to the only drastic constitutional course open to them, namely to throw out the budget, though infructuous. But still after a budget is thrown out and the government is carried on under the certification powers enjoyed by the Government, there is an amount of odium attached to it. The unresponsiveness of the then government forced us, Sir, in the years 1105 and 1106, that is within but 5 or 6 years after the inauguration of this Council, to take to that drastic course. But the Government was carried on as I submitted before under the certification powers with all the odium attached to such process of running the Government. But it is happy to note, Sir, that, not long after, we were taken to a happy era when the authorities thought it proper to respond to the demands of the Public and we have the now famous declaration on the fourth January 1938. Under that, we are now enjoying at least diarchy. It was at that, time attempted by a few to criticise the grant of partial reform in the shape of diarchy on the ground that it is a thricecursed thing as shown by its working in British Indian Provinces. But, Sir, the working of diarchy in this State clearly shows that there is a difference between the working of diarchy in British India and in this State. To my thinking and as believed by a large portion of the Public, diarchy in this State is working satisfactorily. It has worked satisfactorily, it continues to work satisfactorily and with that experience before us, with those hard facts staring us we as realists began to whittle down our demand of full responsible government as realised to the transfer of more departments to be administered by a minister or more ministers. We have a resolution already passed at the last Vrischigam meeting to the effect that more departments may be transferred to be administered by a Minister or more ministers than one. I

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